



President Emeritus Lindsey Horvath, PO BOX 46826, West Hollywood CA 90046  
Tel: 323.951.0318 Email: HollywoodNOW@hotmail.com

July 22, 2011

Mayor Mike McGinn:

We are writing to thank you as well as to offer our support for your continued efforts to end sex trafficking in the Village Voice & their subsidiary publications.

Human trafficking is an international epidemic. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), an estimated 12.3 million people are enslaved in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given time around the world.

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking reports that the CIA estimates as many as 15,000-17,000 men, women, and children are trafficked *into* the United States annually, with Los Angeles being one of the top three points of entry. Their research confirms that immigration agents estimate 10,000 women are being held in Los Angeles' underground brothels; this does not include the thousands of victims in domestic work, sweatshops or other informal industries. Additionally, the US Department of Justice reports that 83% of the victims of confirmed sex trafficking incidents from 2008-2010 were identified as US citizens.

Las Vegas law enforcement believes that advertisements encouraging people to participate in clandestine sexual behavior have contributed to the increase of trafficking and slavery in their City. We know that this type of advertising is not limited to Las Vegas. A variety of publications throughout the United States contribute to and participate in the trafficking epidemic through their classified ads.

We are asking that the US Conference of Mayors follow in your footsteps and resolve to discontinue advertising in the Village Voice and its subsidiary outlets until further investigation confirms that neither sex trafficking nor child prostitution are taking place in these publications. Furthermore, we are asking that the Mayors recommit their efforts to identify and eradicate sex trafficking in their respective communities.

As an organization dedicated to helping achieve equality for all women, Hollywood NOW believes these are important steps in protecting women and girls as well as empowering all survivors of sex trafficking to come forward and seek assistance.

Along with the under-signed community leaders, Hollywood NOW asks that the US Conference of Mayors join us in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Horvath, *President Emeritus, Hollywood NOW*

Eve Ensler, *Founder, VDay: The global activist movement to end violence against women & girls*

Council President Eric Garcetti, *City of Los Angeles*

Patti Giggans, *Executive Director, Peace Over Violence*

Councilmember John Heilman, *City of West Hollywood*

Yvonne Moore, *President, Long Beach & South Bay NOW*

Zoe Nicholson, *President, Pacific Shore NOW*

Torie Osborn, *Former Senior Advisor to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa*

Melinda Tremaglio, *President, Palm Springs NOW*

Jess Weiner, *Author/Self-Esteem Expert/Brand Strategist*

Ruth Williams, *Director of Advocacy, National Council of Jewish Women – LA*